



California State Fire Marshal CODE INTERPRETATION

Date Issued	Revised 12-16-04	Interpretation	01-010
Topic	Sprinkler System Substitution for exterior wall protection		
Code Section(s)	§ 508, California Building Code (1998 ed.) Table 5A, California Building Code (1998 ed.)		
Requested by	Mr. Brian Heyman Division of the State Architect 1130 K Street, Suite 101 Sacramento CA 95814		

1. Are exterior walls of school buildings equipped with fire sprinklers throughout in lieu of fire-resistant construction still required to be rated regardless of proximity to assumed or actual property line?

No. While the CBC permits the substitution of an automatic fire sprinkler system installed throughout the building for one-hour construction in Types II One-hour, III One-hour and V One-hour, provided the system is not otherwise required throughout the building, Section 508 lists 10 specific instances where the substitution may not waive or reduce the required fire-resistive construction. One such instance where the construction requirements cannot be waived is for exterior wall protection due to proximity of property lines. Therefore, the substitution of sprinklers is not allowed for exterior walls when they are less than 10 feet from the property line and additional protection is required.